WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image forming apparatus comprising:

        tone processing means for converting multi-value input data into binary areal tones; a tone pattern table for storing tone patterns to be used by said tone processing means;

        rotating means for rotating the output of said tone processing means;

        skew compensating means for compensating for any skew caused by the image forming apparatus upon the output of said rotating means;

        shift point setting means for setting a skew compensating position; shifting direction setting means for setting a shifting direction according to a skew direction; and

        rotating direction setting means for setting a rotating direction,

        wherein the tone pattern is shifted in the skew compensating position on the basis of information on the shifting direction and the rotating direction.

2.   The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said switching means shifts the tone pattern by controlling a table address at the time of taking out a tone pattern from said tone pattern table.

3.   The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said switching means shifts the tone pattern also by altering a set point of pattern data stored in said tone pattern table.